

AN ACT IN REGARD TO THE SCHOOLS OF THE CHOCTAW NATION.

WHEREAS: The Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations did, by agreement entered into with the United States government, commonly known as the Atoka Agreement, which was ratified by Congress as Section 29 of the Curtis Act, on June 28, 1898, and by a majority vote of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people on August 24, 1898, agree to cease holding their lands in common, and to take same in allotments by severalty; and

WHEREAS: In consideration of said Agreement by the Choctaw and Chickasaw people, and in connection therewith, it was agreed that the tribal governments of said Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations should continue for a period of eight years; and

WHEREAS: The management and direction of the school affairs of the tribal government is one of its highest attributes, and one of which it cannot be deprived so long as it exists as a government; and

WHEREAS: Said Agreement further provided that all coal and asphalt within the limits of said nations
"shall be reserved from allotment, and leased under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and that the revenues from coal and asphalt ... shall be used for the education of children of Indian blood of the members of said tribes ... and also all coal and asphalt mines in the two nations ... shall be operated and the royalties therefrom paid into the Treasury of the United States, and shall be drawn therefrom under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior"; and

WHEREAS: The Interior Department has wrongfully construed said provision of said Agreement to authorize ~~them~~^{it} to take charge of the schools of the Choctaw Nation, and to take management thereof completely out of the hands of the tribal authorities; and

WHEREAS: Said construction is so plainly erroneous and in violation of said Agreement; and

WHEREAS: The action of the Secretary of the Interior in taking possession of said schools against the protest of the Choctaw people, is a cause of great dissatisfaction among our people; and

WHEREAS: The authorities of the Choctaw Nation, desiring, in good faith, to carry out the terms of said Agreement, and to co-operate, so far as they may, under the terms of said Agreement, with the authorities of the United States, have endeavored in every way possible to induce the secretary of the Interior to return to them the control of their schools, and to exercise no authority under said clause of said Agreement, except such supervision as is clearly warranted thereby; and

WHEREAS: It is apparent that the secretary of the Interior is determined to forcibly hold possession of said schools, and school property, contrary to the wishes of the Choctaw people;
THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION ASSEMBLED:

That the school authorities of the Choctaw Nation be, and they are, hereby directed to take such steps as may be necessary to immediately take possession of the lands and buildings, in the Choctaw Nation, devoted to school purposes, and of all the personal property attached to and used in connection therewith, and to proceed to administer the school laws of the Choctaw Nation, and to conduct said schools for the benefit of "the children of the members of the said tribe", as provided in said Agreement; and that said school authorities are ~~hereby instructed~~ hereby instructed not to deliver possession of any of said buildings or property to any person who is not authorized to take possession thereof under the laws of the Choctaw Nation, by authority of the proper school officers.

This act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

E. R. Chadler

Approved Oct 30 - 1900
G. W. Dukes
Principal chief
C. N.

that the school authorities of the Choctaw Nation be, and they are hereby directed to take such steps as may be necessary to immediately take possession of the lands and buildings, in

Read, interpreted,
passed the House, this
the 30th day of Oct
1900, and referred
to the Senate
W. Hunter,
Speaker House.

Read and interpreted
passed the Senate
and referred to
The Principal Chief
The 30th day of
October 1900
A.P. Hand.
Pres of the Senate

Handwritten notes in blue ink, including the date 10-30-1900 and names like W. Hunter and A.P. Hand.